

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claims 1-4, 6-23, and 25-31 are pending.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 6-10, 17, 21-23, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Swain et al. U.S. patent 5,433,572 (hereinafter "Swain"). The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 6, 17, 21, 22, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins U.S. patent 4,730,575 (hereinafter "Jenkins") in view of Swain. The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 17, 21-23, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammond et al. U.S. patent 5,090,350 (hereinafter "Hammond") in view of Swain. The Examiner rejects claims 11-14, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swain in view of Hammond. The Examiner rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swain and Hammond in view of Toussaint et al. U.S. patent 3,619,240 (hereinafter "Toussaint") and Allen et al. U.S. patent 3,901,180 (hereinafter "Allen"). The Examiner objects to claims 15 and 20* as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form

* Although the Examiner indicates on page 8 of the Office action that claims 15 and 21 are objected to, applicants infer from the prior record in this case that the Examiner intended to set forth claims 15 and 20.

including all of the features of the base claim and intervening claims.

Applicants have amended claims 1 and 21 to more particularly define the invention. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's objection and rejections are respectfully traversed.

II. Applicants' Invention

Applicants' invention, as set forth by currently amended independent claims 1 and 21, is directed toward apparatus for performing a resin application process for dynamo-electric machine components. The apparatus includes a cabinet for providing a controlled ambient and a rotating vertical support structure disposed in the cabinet. The rotating vertical support structure has a plurality of fixtures disposed in an annular region thereon configured to hold the machine components within hollow interiors of the fixtures. The component holding fixtures are open structures configured to allow air to circulate through the interior of the fixtures to expose substantial surface portions of the held components to the controlled ambient. Support for the amendments to claims 1 and 21 can be found, for example, at page 13, line 10 to page 14, line 26 and FIGS. 2a and 2b of the applicants' originally-filed specification. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

III. Applicants' Reply

§ 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 6-10, 17, 21-23, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Swain. The Examiner rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 21 are allowable over Swain at least because Swain fails to show or suggest fixtures configured to hold machine components within their hollow interiors and which comprise open structures configured to allow air to circulate through the interiors of the fixtures to expose substantial surface portions of the held components to the controlled ambient. In contrast, Swain refers to "rod-like structures" such as shafts 22, over which cylindrical substrate members 14 are placed (Swain, col. 5, lines 51-60). It should be clear that the apparatus of Swain is configured so that substrate member 14 is held over and outside of shaft 22, instead of within the hollow interiors of the fixtures as set forth in applicants' claims 1 and 21. In fact, shaft 22 is "rod-like" and does not possess a hollow interior within which machine components may be held and through which air may be circulated over the components.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reasons, applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 21, and

dependent claims 2-4, 6-10, 17, 22, 23, and 26 are allowable over Swain. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the § 102 rejections based on Swain be withdrawn.

§ 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 6, 17, 21, 22, and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jenkins in view of Swain. The Examiner rejects claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-14, 17, 21-23, 25, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hammond in view of Swain. The Examiner rejects claims 11-14, 18, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swain in view of Hammond. The Examiner rejects claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swain and Hammond in view of Toussaint and Allen. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing discussion of Swain, applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 21 are patentable over the Examiner's proposed combinations of Jenkins with Swain and Hammond with Swain at least because the Examiner's proposed combinations fail to show or suggest all of applicants' claimed features. In particular, neither of the Examiner's proposed combinations shows or suggests fixtures configured to hold components within hollow interiors of the fixtures comprising open

structures configured to allow air to circulate through the interiors of the fixtures.

Therefore, for at least the foregoing reason, applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 21 are patentable over Jenkins, Hammonds, and Swain, whether taken alone or in combination, and respectfully request that the § 103 rejections based on those references be withdrawn. Dependent claims 2-4, 6-20, 22, 23, and 25-31 are also patentable at least because the foregoing demonstrates that independent claims 1 and 21 are patentable. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the § 103 rejection of claims 11-14, 18, and 19 based on Swain and Hammond and the § 103 rejection of claim 16 based on Swain, Hammond, Toussaint, and Allen also be withdrawn.

Claim Objection

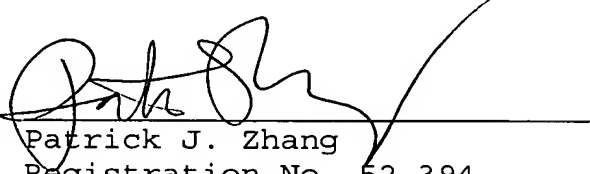
The Examiner objected to claims 15 and 20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants submit that in view of the foregoing independent claim 1 is allowable. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

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IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick J. Zhang', is written over a horizontal line.

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